low due to an inherent bias against Dalits and weakening of cases by the prosecution;

(b) whether the gravity of offences under the Act is being diluted by the prosecution by introducing errors, removing the caste angle and omitting the precise abuse; and

(c) whether Government would consider holding the public prosecutors accountable for poor representation of criminal cases where Dalits are the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No specific complaint of this nature has been brought to the notice of the Union Government.

(c) Under the existing criminal justice administration system, the rate of conviction depends on various factors such as status of investigation by the investigating officers, professional processing of the charge-sheets, presentation of cases by the Public Prosecutor, level of awareness and professional orientation of various sections of the criminal justice system. It may therefore not be appropriate to hold the public prosecutors solely responsible for the lower conviction rate under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (POA) Act, 1989.

**Talks between India and Pakistan**

*210. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the latest rounds of talks between India and Pakistan in relation to the armed forces withdrawal in both sides of the border of the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) what measures Government have in mind in relation to cross border terrorism after such withdrawal; and

(c) whether Government would piace details of the security forces-terrorist casualties in the State of Jammu and Kashmir since July, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Talks were held between India and Pakistan in August, 2004 on issues relating to Siachen. No decision was taken regarding withdrawal on both sides of the border.

However, in November, 2004, Government of India unilaterally decided to reduce the deployment of troops from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The decision to reduce troops was based on a thorough assessment of the situation on the ground after improvment in the security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir due to the relentless efforts on the part of the security forces taken to contain terrorism. Government has taken adequate measures to ensure that troop reduction or readjustment on ground of the available troops is not exploited by the terrorists. The situation is under constant review.

A total of 537 terrorists were killed and 159 casualties were suffered by the security forces in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the period July, 2004 to January, 2005.

**Need for reforms and modernisation in textile sector**

*213. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a need to reform and modernise the textile sector failing which China, Pakistan and Thailand may capture the world market in the quota-free regime; and

(b) if so, what is the action plan of Government to modernise the textile sector to secure a better footing in world market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Certain measures already taken by the Government to modernize the Indian textile sector to secure a better footing in world market are as follows:—

* Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched w.e.f. 1.4.1999 to facilitate modernization/technology upgradation of textile and jute sectors. The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech 2005-06, has announced an allocation of Rs. 435.00 crore for this Scheme for the financial year 2005-06. He has also announced introduction of a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement, for speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector.